

I also have written Mark McClellan, the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, six times since April 1 about this issue, imploring the FDA to take another look at for whom and for what this drug can be prescribed. I have yet to receive a response.

The following is an excerpt from a news article that appeared in the Orlando Sentinel in February cuts right to the heart of the issue. The article was written by staff writer Doris Bloodworth. It ran on February 21, 2003.

Fort Lauderdale—The maker of the highly profitable narcotic painkiller OxyContin has been aggressively marketing the drug far beyond its original purpose to ease the suffering of cancer patients, according to company documents released Thursday.

Purdue Pharma for several years has promoted the powerful drug to treat less-threatening ailments, such as arthritis and back pain, according to company marketing plans. Those materials also discuss future marketing of the drug to obstetricians and specialists in sports medicine.

The company fought to keep the sensitive documents secret, but a circuit judge in Broward County ordered them released as a result of a suit by the Orlando Sentinel and the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.

Purdue officials say OxyContin is a highly effective product and, when used properly, has a relatively low addiction rate.

Federal officials have admonished the company several times for marketing the narcotic inappropriately. And a number of class-action suits have been filed against Purdue in other states.

OxyContin, which has come under fire because of the number of deaths linked to its abuse, was introduced in 1996 to help cancer patients and others cope with chronic pain.

But Purdue, based in Stamford, Conn., recognized early on that non-cancer patients represented a larger and more lucrative market and sought to expand the use of its time-release painkiller, according to the marketing plans. In a marketing overview for 2002, the company noted that \$2.1 billion in opiate sales were for non-cancer pain compared with \$396 million for cancer patients. The 1999 plans state more than 70 percent of OxyContin prescriptions were written for non-cancer pain.

Purdue's most recent marketing plan states: "In 2002 OxyContin Tablets will continue to be promoted for use in the non-malignant pain market." The plan cited as examples back pain, osteoarthritis, injury and trauma.

Another goal was an attempt to "broaden OxyContin Tablets' usage in the management of pain due to various causes (e.g., back pain, osteoarthritis, neuropathic pain, post-operative pain)."

This is only one of several news stories about OxyContin that have been appearing in papers across the country. My congressional district has not been immune from the damage inflicted by the illegal use and abuse of OxyContin. Several pharmacies in my district have been robbed at gunpoint for OxyContin. A former county prosecutor in my district has pled guilty to Federal drug charges as part of a large-scale investigation into the illegal distribution of OxyContin. Last month there was a murder in my district that is potentially linked to OxyContin. Sadly, the daughter of the man who was murdered died last week of a drug overdose. Press reports allude that OxyContin may have been involved in the overdose. Just last week The Post reported that two slayings in another part of my district are possibly linked to the trade of OxyContin.

Families, communities and careers—particularly rural communities—in Virginia, Kentucky,

West Virginia, Maine, Ohio and Pennsylvania are being devastated by the illegal use and abuse of OxyContin. Clearly, there is a problem. Some law enforcement officials I have talked to say the illegal use of this drug could be the next crack cocaine. A recent story in The New York Times said that "no other drug in the last 20 years has been abused more widely so soon after its introduction" than OxyContin.

My subcommittee on the Commerce-Justice-State and the Judiciary appropriations held a hearing last December on OxyContin and is pushing the DEA to develop an aggressive plan to combat the illegal use of the drug. The hearing was comprehensive. We heard from the DEA, the pharmaceutical company that manufactures OxyContin, representatives from the American Cancer Society and the parents of recovering addicts.

My subcommittee also set aside a significant amount of money for the Justice Department for a grant program to help states develop a prescription drug monitoring system. Ideally, the program would be aimed at monitoring Schedule II drugs, not all prescription drugs.

In the meantime, I urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the FDA to reexamine to whom this drug can be prescribed before it does any more harm. Failure to take action will result in more deaths.

CREATING A COMMISSION FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE CIVIL WAR

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Congress designated the United States Civil War Center (USCWC) at Louisiana State University (LSU) and the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College as the co-facilitators of the Sesquicentennial, or 150th, Commemoration of the Civil War in 2011–2015. Legislation establishing the Sesquicentennial Commission was to be introduced in Congress in 2003. Today I rise to offer this aforementioned legislation.

The American Civil War (1861–1865) was one of the most violent times in the history of the United States, touching not only every state and territory, but claiming more than 600,000 lives, bringing freedom to over 4 million black slaves and destroying property valued at \$5 billion. The ripple effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction remain today as our nation continues to wrestle with its legacy of race relations and federal, state and civil rights.

In 1993, the USCWC was created as a department of the LSU College of Arts and Sciences under founding director David Madden. In 2000, the USCWC became a department of LSU Libraries' Special Collections. The mission of the USCWC is to promote the study of the American Civil War from the perspectives of all professions, occupations, and academic disciplines in order to facilitate a deeper, more thorough understanding of one of the most important events in our nation's history. This mission is fulfilled through a variety of projects, including an official web site featuring over 9000 links to Civil War-related

sites, the Michael Shaara Award for Civil War Fiction, Civil War Book Review, the Michael Lehman Williamson Collection of Civil War Books for Young People, the David Madden Collection of Civil War Fiction, and the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the objectives and services the USCWC provides. What is more, I am pleased to introduce legislation today that will include the USCWC in the creation of the commission to provide grants and other assistance to institutions nationwide to conduct interdisciplinary Civil War commemorative activities between the years 2011 to 2015. The commission will include members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, directors of the Library of Congress and National Archives, and academics in history, anthropology, sociology, political science, art history and law. I believe this commission will provide the direction and resources needed for proper Sesquicentennial Commemorations of the Civil War throughout this nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SECURE ANNUITY INCOME FOR LIFE ACT OF 2003

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2003

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bi-partisan "Secure Annuity Income for Life Act (S.A.I.L.)," legislation co-sponsored with Rep. JOHNNY ISAKSON (R-GA). This legislation will encourage workers to annuitize their savings to provide them with retirement income for life.

Traditionally, guaranteed monthly income sources have provided the best means of retirement income security. However, these sources are playing an ever smaller role in ensuring retirement income stability. Social Security is facing a funding challenge. The personal savings rate is at an all time low while consumer debt is at an all time high. The number of defined benefit plans, or pensions, has decreased by half since 1977—putting pressure on defined contribution plans, like the 401(k), to be the primary retirement plan.

As a result of the growth in 401(k) plans, greater amounts of retirement savings will not be annuitized. According to the Department of Labor, only 38 percent of workers in a 401(k) plan have an annuity option available to them. However, about \$2.5 trillion in retirement assets are invested in individual retirement accounts (IRAs), mostly as a result of rollovers from defined contribution plans. That compares with \$1.8 trillion in defined benefit plans and \$2.4 trillion in defined contribution plans. The amount of IRA rollovers is expected to increase by 50% in the next ten years, mostly as a result of retirements. Workers will face a number of risks when managing these savings in retirement.

When workers take a lump sum distribution, or rolls his 401(k) savings into an IRA, they face a number of risks when managing these savings in retirement:

Unpredictable Time Horizon—Life expectancy at 65 is at least 18 years—but that is only an average and not very useful in planning. In fact, 28 percent of females that are 65 years old will live to age 90 and 17 percent of